

CHARLES P. TAFT MAKES A DENIAL

Representative Rainey Reads His Cable Message in the House.

RAINEY SAYS SHOULD SEND IT TO PANAMA

Declares Denial Does Not Nec- essitate His Changing a Word of His Speech—Friend of Cromwell Reads Letter from Him on Subject.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—Representative Rainey, of Illinois, to-day read to the House a cablegram he received from Charles P. Taft, in which the brother of the President-elect denied that he has ever had any business association with William Nelson Cromwell or any interest at any time in the Isthmus of Panama. He asked Mr. Rainey to retract his statements regarding himself.

Mr. Rainey said that he had not the slightest desire to controvert the statement of Mr. Taft, but that it was not necessary for him to retract anything he said in his speech, from which he quoted his reference to Mr. Taft.

Taft Could Reader Service.

"The country will be glad to know that Mr. Taft's name is being used without his consent," he said. "I desire to say in this connection that Mr. Taft could render a great service if he should, without delay, address a telegram to the General Assembly of Panama denying his connection with the scheme I have described and repudiating Mr. Cromwell and the Isthmus of Panama with as much enthusiasm as he has in his telegram to me repudiating all connection with that gentleman."

"I think I might also with propriety suggest that the President-elect at the present time render no greater service to his country than he can render by withdrawing his frequent public endorsements of William Nelson Cromwell. At the present time Mr. Cromwell and Mr. Farnham are proceeding under certificates of good character given them in the past by the President-elect."

Mr. Rainey declared that as President, Mr. Taft should remove both Mr. Cromwell and Farnham from their present official positions.

Taft's Denial.

Following is the text of Mr. C. P. Taft's telegram to Mr. Rainey:

"Cable Message.

"Havana, January 27, 1909.

"Congressman Rainey, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:

"I assume you have been misled into uttering the sheer and absolute falsehoods concerning me you are reporting to have spoken yesterday. I have never had any business association of any kind or description, past, present or prospective, with William Nelson Cromwell, nor any interest of any kind or prospective, on the Isthmus of Panama, and I confidently rely upon your loyalty to the truth to retract what you said about me in your speech. I am sure you made yourself responsible for these misstatements."

"CHARLES P. TAFT."

Mr. Rainey also read a letter printed in newspapers from Randolph G. Ward, of New York, relieving Mr. Cromwell of responsibility for the attempt to obtain the much-criticized railroad franchise from Panama.

From Mr. Cromwell.

Representative Lovering, of Massachusetts, read the following letter to him from Mr. Cromwell, under date of New York, January 28th:

"Although the affairs of the Panama government are not properly a subject of consideration by the American Congress, I wish to waive all technicalities and say at once that I never have had and have not now any interest of any kind, direct or indirect, present or prospective, in any concession, contract, proposition or other business affair in any part of the republic of Panama, save only a small stock interest in the local electric light company of Panama, which was acquired some years ago, at the request of Panama citizens, to encourage a local industry, the conditions of which investment were fully stated by me before the so-called Morgan inquiry."

Mr. Lovering said that he had never seen Mr. Rainey had been filled up with material from a well-known source."

Mr. Rainey demanded what this source was. "The New York World," responded Mr. Lovering.

Mr. Rainey asked if he had never received from the World or any other newspaper assistance in his search for information regarding the purchase of the canal.

OPPOSE BILL

Southern Democratic Senators Do Not Favor Brownsville Compromise.

WASHINGTON, January 29.—A plan for harmonizing the views of the public and private interests who have been at variance on the re-enlistment of the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Regiment, who were discharged from the service of the United States at Brownsville, Texas, was laid before the Senate to-day by Mr. Aldrich, and accepted by advocates of the measure pending before the Senate.

Southern Democratic Senators who generally oppose all legislation dealing with the question did not fall to announce their opposition to the new bill, as well as to others, and with Senators Culberson and McPherson as their spokesmen, refused to agree to the compromise measure. The compromise measure was presented as a substitute for pending bills.

It authorizes the Secretary of War to appoint a court of inquiry to consist of five officers of the United States army, not below the rank of colonel, which shall be empowered to hear and report upon the charges and defenses of the soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Regiment who were discharged from the service of the United States at Brownsville on the night of August 13th and 14th, 1906. The court is directed to report to the Senate on or before its adjournment to make a final report, and from time to time to make partial reports as to non-commissioned officers and privates, and to the President, and to whom they find to be qualified for re-enlistment. It provides that the re-enlistment shall be considered as having been made by the President after the discharge of the men who were to be entitled to pay, allowances and other rights from the date of their discharge.

This substitute was accepted by Senator Foraker, who said, however, that it did not meet his views as well as his own bill, and also by Senator Warren, chairman of the committee on Military Affairs, and by Senator Warner, who has a bill of his own.

Senator Culberson opposed an agreement to vote for the bill, and Senator McPherson a similar understanding for Wednesday.

REACHES FOCUS

Important Conference Held on the Government's Case of Ibel.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—That the government's investigation into the publication of alleged libelous articles in the New York World and the Indianapolis News in connection with the purchase of the Panama Canal has about reached a focus, was made evident when it became known that United States District Attorney Stimmons, of the southern district of New York, was a party to a conference, which took place to-day at the White House and at the Department of Justice.

These conferences gave rise to the inquiry in regard to the effect that one of these was in New York, so far as the Federal government is concerned, should be abandoned, and would be taken up by District Attorney Stimmons in the New York State courts.

Another had it that Douglas Robinson, President Roosevelt's brother-in-law, practically had decided to become the complaining witness in the case, both in New York and in the District of Columbia.

The parties to the conference declined absolutely to discuss the case. The participants in the first conference in addition to President Roosevelt, were District Attorney Stimmons, Attorney-General Bonaparte and Douglas Robinson.

The second important development before the Federal grand jury to-day was the refusal of J. Angus Shaw, secretary-treasurer of the Press Publishing Company of New York, publishers of the World, to testify, because he might incriminate himself.

NO CONSIDERATION

Bills Amending the Hepburn Act Will Have to Go Over.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—All bills amending the Hepburn railroad law and the Interstate Commerce Commission act will be refused consideration by the House committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce during this session of Congress.

This course was informally decided upon to-day when it was suggested to the committee that the bills should be considered. The committee agreed that to take up the bills would require numerous hearings, and that no such legislation could be considered from the House in the closing days of the session.

BRING OUT TRUTH

Proposed Bill Grants Amnesty to All Implicated in Assassination.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—Speaker Cannon to-day received a letter from Memphis, Tenn., conveying for his consideration a bill by the terms of which it is proposed to grant amnesty and a general pardon to all persons who have been implicated in the assassination of President Lincoln.

The occasion suggested is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the martyr President. The bill is intended to bring out the truth concerning the assassination, including those figuring in the story that John Wilkes Booth was captured and killed at the Garrett house in Virginia.

TO WITNESS HOME-COMING

House Naval Committee Accepts Invitation of Secretary.

WASHINGTON, January 29.—The House Naval Committee on Naval Affairs to-day accepted an invitation from the Secretary of the Navy to go to Hampton Roads, Va., to witness the home-coming of the Atlantic fleet.

The committee will probably make the trip on the Dolphin, and the use of a transport is tendered by the Secretary of the Navy. A large number of Congressmen are planning to witness the review of the fleet at the same time.

HE OPPOSES BILL

Senator Bacon Opposes Before Committee Considering Naval Stores Inspection.

WASHINGTON, January 29.—Senator Bacon, of Georgia, to-day appeared before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce in opposition to Senator Tallaferro's bill providing for the Federal inspection of naval stores, and having special reference to the turpentine and rosin business of Florida and Georgia.

He took the position that the inspection should be left wholly to State regulation.

NOMINATION CONFIRMED

Daniel J. Keefe Is Now Commissioner-General of Immigration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—The nomination of Daniel J. Keefe to be commissioner-general of immigration was to-day confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. Keefe's nomination has been held up since December 8th, because of the charges that the office was given him on account of his assistance in getting labor votes for the Republican ticket in the late campaign.

CROSSES ISTHMUS FOR EIGHTH TIME

President-Elect Taft and His Party Are Now Making Inspection.

**WILL VISIT THE SITE
OF GATUN DAM TO-DAY**

Arrived at Colon Yesterday Morning, Spent Last Night With Colonel Goethals, and in the Meantime Met the Isthmian Officials.

PANAMA, January 29.—President-elect Taft to-day made his eighth trip across the Isthmus, and everywhere was greeted with marked demonstrations of good-will. With his party Mr. Taft landed this morning at Colon, and proceeded by special train to Culebra, where to-night he is quartered at the residence of Lieutenant-Colonel Goethals, chairman of the Panama Canal Commission. His reception by the Panamanians, both at Colon and Culebra, was most cordial. To-morrow Mr. Taft will visit the site of Gatun Dam.

The United States cruiser North Carolina, on which Mr. Taft sailed from Charleston last Monday, and the conveyer cruiser Montana arrived at Colon at 10 o'clock this morning, after a voyage that was marked by splendid weather conditions. All the members of the party were in good health.

Received by Officials.

Colonel Goethals, Joseph Blackburn, Governor of the zone, and Colonel William C. Gorgas, chief sanitary officer of the zone, and other prominent persons immediately boarded the North Carolina from the tug Cristobal and welcomed the President-elect, who landed at 10:40 o'clock landed at dock No. 2, adjoining the Panama Railroad offices. The first person to shake the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Taft when they landed was Governor Porfirio Melendez, of Panama, who introduced to them Mayor Colon, who introduced to them Mayor Arango, and other Panamanian officials.

Mr. Taft and his party immediately boarded a train which was waiting for them at the station. Arriving there the President-elect was received ceremoniously by the members of President-elect Taft's party. During the day Mr. Taft had a conference with the engineers engaged in the construction of the canal and a visit to the Gatun Dam was planned for to-day. Mr. Taft and his party will sail from Colon for New Orleans next Friday.

Mr. Taft to-night made an address to inspire in their independence of opinion concerning the canal. To-morrow Mr. Taft will call on President Obaldia.

RACY DIVORCE

Mrs. Atherton Testifies in the Very Interesting Stirling Suit.

EDINBURGH, January 29.—The proceedings in the divorce case of Mrs. Atherton against her husband, which was Clara Elizabeth Stirling, an American girl, considered her husband and by Mrs. Stirling against her husband, has in no way diminished public interest in them.

Mr. Stirling's case is now before the court, and the divorce is expected to be granted. Mrs. Stirling and Mrs. Atherton are present every day, attired in elaborate and costly toilettes, which are described in detail in the papers, and which continue to devote many columns to the unsavory testimony brought out.

Mrs. Atherton was on the witness stand to-day and created a sensation by testifying that Mrs. Stirling once shot Lord Northland, the co-respondent, named by Mr. Stirling, unless he married her.

"She said Mrs. Atherton testified, 'that she would take her own life or Lord Northland's, one must go, and it didn't matter which.'"

"I am not going to be treated in the same way you have been," this was a statement made by Mrs. Stirling, who refused to marry Mrs. Atherton after her divorce, in which he was the co-respondent.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Negro Sentenced for Trying to Kill His White Wife.

TORONTO, ONT., January 29.—William Sheen, a negro, was to-day sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment for attempting to murder his white wife, whom he shot in a jealous rage. He was a coachman in the employ of Mrs. Sheen's former husband, a wealthy Michigan lumberman.

He eloped with the woman and traveled throughout the United States and Mexico, finally coming to Canada where they could find any one to perform the marriage ceremony.

DEATH OF Mr. Fuller

SCARANTON, Pa., January 29.—Edward E. Fuller, of this city, president of the International Salt Company, died to-day at Augusta, Ga., where he went last Saturday from New York in company with Dr. J. C. Price, of this city.

FOR MONUMENTS

Bill Appropriating Two for Revolutionary General's Paces House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—In a bill introduced to-day by Representative Edwards, of Georgia, \$50,000 is appropriated for the erection of monuments over the graves of General Daniel Stewart and General James Screven, who fought in the Revolutionary War.

The graves are located in the old cemetery at Midway, Ga.

Declares Bill Unconstitutional.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—Representative Jenkins, of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, in a speech in the House to-day declared that the proposed Pearce bill and other anti-immigration bills before his committee are unconstitutional.

New Federal District.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—A bill creating a new division in the Middle Federal Judicial District of Tennessee was passed by the House to-day. Under the bill court is to sit at Cookeville.

NORTHWEST STORM

Buildings Wrecked, Trains Stalled, Telegraph and Telephone Wires Down.

CHICAGO, ILL., January 29.—The storm of sleet, snow and rain, which, sped along by a high wind during the last twenty-four hours, has prostrated telegraph and telephone wires, stalled trains, and wrecked buildings and killed several persons. The storm was reported central in the vicinity of Detroit. The first bite of the storm was felt in Chicago at noon and it continued to increase in fury as the hours passed. The wind blew forty miles an hour, and the thermometer registered a drop of over 20 degrees to 10 above zero.

The day was one long fight by the telegraph and railroad companies to restore service. The Chicago and North Western freight trains are running to-night in the storm belt in Iowa, and few in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul reported practically all its wires down.

The best information obtainable at La Crosse was that two trains are stalled in the snow in South Dakota.

Old Time Blizzard.

ST. PAUL, MINN., January 29.—An old-time blizzard raged in the Northwest to-day. Telegraph communication with the East was almost wholly destroyed.

Owing to the high wind and increasing cold, which at 2 o'clock was one degree below zero, the public schools closed.

Rough in Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 29.—Robert McCormack, the oldest member of the police force, was blown from the fifth floor of his home by a high wind, and probably fatally hurt in the storm to-day.

Points through Missouri reported severe storms of wind and snow.

Big Wind in Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., January 29.—Exceptionally high wind passed over Arkansas to-day, reaching a velocity at times of fifty-six miles an hour. Many buildings in the city were unroofed. A delivery wagon was blown off the bridge over the Arkansas River.

Big Damage in Kansas.

TOPEKA, KAN., January 29.—A fierce snow and wind storm had prevailed throughout Kansas to-night. It has done considerable damage in nearly every county. Most telegraph and telephone wires are down.

About half of the roof over the west wing of the Kansas State House was torn off by the wind, and a number of other roofs about town were damaged.

At Salina the roof of the Rash building, a three-story structure, was blown off. The Rock Island roundhouse was destroyed. At Wichita several church spires were blown down and plate-glass windows demolished. A number of houses were damaged by falling trees and poles. Car traffic was stopped.

At Omaha the wind threw Gus Nelson, the wind and storm expert, from a switch engine. He lost both legs.

The cold storage plant of the Newell Ice Company, at Newton, Kan., was partly demolished.

TRouble IN CUBA

Police Has Already Begun to Cause Considerable Disputes.

HAVANA, January 29.—This afternoon Joseph E. Jerez, the chief of police, tendered his resignation to the government, Nicolas Alberdi, who explained that President Gomez had ordered Jerez to resign. Jerez had been editor of a long succession of publications, most of which had been suppressed for attack on the government. Jerez had been the first period of American intervention, a paper of which Alberdi was the editor was suppressed for attack on the government. Jerez had been the first period of American intervention, a paper of which Alberdi was the editor was suppressed for attack on the government.

OLDEST RESIDENT

Henderson Cremons, Said to Be 115, Dies in West Virginia.

WHEELING, W. VA., January 29.—Henderson Cremons, 115 years old, died in West Virginia, and probably the oldest man in the United States, died to-day at the home of his grandson, Clark Cremons, near Point Pleasant, Mason county, aged 115 years. He was a native of England, and of his death, falling by the roadside on his way home from the grocery store. He was removed home and died a few minutes later.

His father and mother are said to have been the first settlers of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. His mother died at 120; his wife at 101. He was one of the first settlers of the Ohio Valley, coming here from Virginia. He was the age of 18 when he married his first wife, a daughter of a wealthy Virginia family. He had 121 great-grandchildren and nineteen great-great-grandchildren. He never tasted liquor or tobacco in his life.

INVESTIGATE KILLING

Hope to Identify Dead Yeggman by Use of His Photograph.

LAURENS, S. C., January 29.—Post-Office Inspector Gregory is to-day investigating the murder of Patrolman McDuffie H. Stone, who died last yesterday evening from a gunshot wound inflicted by an unknown yeggman yesterday morning. Stone was buried to-day.

Mr. Gregory is seeking to identify the yeggman who was also killed in the encounter and whose body lies in the morgue. Mr. Gregory said the yeggman can be identified when his picture is sent to Atlanta, which was done to-day.

KILLED BY AUTO

Wealthy Woman, Driving Through Snow, Crashes Into Wagon.

CHICAGO, ILL., January 29.—Thomas Clancy, a teamster, was killed, his assistant was hurt, and three women narrowly escaped injury to-day when an automobile driven by Mrs. Joel Blumhardt, wife of a wealthy clothing manufacturer, crashed into a delivery wagon driven by Clancy.

After the accident Mrs. Blumhardt, with two women companions, drove rapidly away, but a bystander noticed the number of her automobile license. The police later arrested Mrs. Blumhardt. She explained the snow-storm almost blinded her at the time of the accident, and she did not know she had hurt any one.

SELLS HIS STOCK AT PISOL POINT

Traveling Salesman and Wife Hold Up President of His Company.

**BOTH UNDER ARREST
AND REFUSE TO TALK**

Lester Telephoned Young to Come to House in Reference to Stock Sale—While He Held Him With Revolver Wife Cashed Check.

MOBILE, ALA., January 29.—Fleetwood Lester, traveling salesman for the Southern Supply Company, of this city, and his wife, in jail, charged with holding up Hardaway Young, president of the company, at the point of a revolver and robbing him of \$5,600.25. The alleged robbery occurred at the home of the Lester this afternoon, and was sensational in the extreme.

It is charged that Lester telephoned to Young to come to his home on business connected with the sale of stock which Lester owned in the company. As soon as Young entered the Lester home, he alleged, Lester held him up at the point of a revolver and forced him to write an order to his cashier directing him to pay Mrs. Lester \$5,600.25, the amount of stock which Lester is said to have owned in the company.

Wife Cashes Check.

Mrs. Lester took the order to the cashier, who wrote out a check for the amount, accompanied Mrs. Lester to the bank and identified her, and the check was cashed. Mrs. Lester returned to her home, where Young alleged he was held at the point of a revolver during her absence and gave the money to her husband, who then advised Young that he could depart.

Two hours later Young swore out warrants against Mr. and Mrs. Lester, charging them with robbery, and they were lodged in the county jail.

Lester and his wife declined to make any statement.

The affair is said to be the outcome of recent misunderstandings between Lester and Young concerning certain business transactions.

PEA FOR ART

Senator Newlands Would Have Us Build for Future Generations.

NEW YORK, January 29.—United States Senator Francis G. Newlands, of Nevada, and Mayor George B. Meade of New York, were the principal speakers at the banquet of the Architectural League in the Fine Arts Building to-night. The keynote of all the remarks was a plea for art as a vital force in the lives of the people.

"We are entering," said Senator Newlands in his speech, "a new era of constructive democracy in which beauty as well as utility performs a part of every nation's life. It is the duty of the builders; let us so build that monuments which we shall leave will fitly represent to future generations the culture and the character of our people."

Referring to the criticism of the President's executive order appointing a council of arts, Mr. Newlands said: "I do not believe that the loss of life is an usurpation of legislative power."

"It is unfortunate," said Mr. Newlands, "that a more discriminating legislation is not applied to the acts of the President, whose fertile intellect, whilst sometimes perhaps chafing under the restraint of constitutional limitations, has done much to advance the standards of our governmental, moral, material and economic life."

APPEAL TO MERCHANTS

Business Men Take Hand in Japanese Question.

NEW YORK, January 29.—An important movement with respect to the Japanese question was set on foot to-day at a meeting of the Board of Trade and Transportation's committee on foreign and insular trade, and of the Japanese States to the board that the merchants of New York appeal to the merchants and manufacturers of all the other States to co-operate with them in impressing upon the people of California the wisdom of persistent discrimination against the Japanese race.

The committee strongly deprecated the constant agitation in California against the Japanese, and expressed the fear that its continuance would result in a rupture of relations between Japan and the United States.

At the conference, which was composed of the committee and others, representatives of the General Electric Company, Kuhn, Loeb & Company, American Bank Note Company, the National City Bank, the China and Japan Trading Company and Muller, MacLean & Company.

OMNIBUS BILL

Carrying War Claims Appropriations Aggregating \$3,000,000 Passes House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—The Senate to-day passed the omnibus bill after four days of debate. It carries an appropriation of about \$3,000,000. The bill, having been favorably acted upon by the House, will now go to conference with the House to settle the differences between the two bodies.

The law permitting either House of Congress to refer Civil War claims to the court of claims, which such reference may be made until January 1, 1910, and Senator Fulton, in charge of the measure, announced that it was the purpose of the Committee on Claims to refer probably 2,000 claims on the committee's files to the court of claims.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

Mr. Shirley Failed to Get Unanimous Consent to Consider Amendment.

WASHINGTON, January 29.—When the House met to-day Mr. Shirley, of Kentucky, sought to get unanimous consent to have his bill to amend the bankruptcy law given a privileged character that would permit its early consideration by the House, but failed through the opposition of Mr. Towne.

TWO MORE JURORS

Judge Hart Orders Another Verdict of Five Hundred Names.

NASHVILLE, TENN., January 29.—The third day of the trial of Colonel Duncan B. Cooper, Robin Cooper and John D. Sharp, for the murder of former Senator E. W. Carmack, opened to-day with the jury being made up to the jury, which now numbers nine. The two recent acquisitions are Gus Knifer and E. O. Beriman.

The two new jurors, who had been examined in an effort to get the twelve men, of those who qualified the State challenged thirteen, the State challenged twenty-three, and the court summarily excused two after they had proved unsatisfactory to both sides. It is conceded that the State in changing its list of challenges has greatly reduced the chances of getting a jury at once. Many of those summoned say they may have expressed an opinion at the time the murder occurred, and for fear of an indictment they disqualify themselves.

Judge Hart has ordered a fresh venire of 100 names. This will exhaust half of the names in the jury wheel. After hearing testimony in the case of Juror Whitworth, whose health is said to be such that his presence is endangered by the confinement incident to the trial of the case, Judge Hart was disposed to excuse him at once, but the State asked that a motion be withheld until the next panel was exhausted.

URGES PEACE

Office of United Mine Workers Denies That It Is a Labor Union.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., January 29.—At the close of a day of wrangling and long speeches, conveying veiled innuendoes and open charges, the board of trustees of the United Mine Workers of America, which is now in session at the Danville, Ill., subcommittee, declared:

"We are sorry to the bottom of our hearts to have to come here to find able district officers engaging in personal disputes, causing this to be the case. We are sorry to have to find in Indianapolis I have been working in the mine since I was seven years old, and I have been a member of the organization for many years. I know that the eyes and ears of the country are upon us. Our own constituents do not want to hear of our quarreling. Let us leave of personal dissension, proceed to business, and in the end support our executive officer whether he be Tom Lewis, or John Walker, or any other man."

Mr. Evans was heartily applauded. The day's session was devoted largely to an animated and at times heated discussion of the president's report.

BODIES ARRIVE

Remarkable Tribute by Italians to Count and Mrs. Cheney.

NEW YORK, January 29.—A remarkable demonstration in tribute to the memory of Arthur S. Cheney, the American consul, and Mrs. Cheney, who were killed in the earthquake at Messina, was made by the societies of the city to-day. The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Cheney reached New York to-day on board the steamer Venezia. Escorted by several good members of Italian society, they were taken to the city hall, where they were laid out in state, and a large number of flowers, to the slow strains of funeral music by military bands, the bodies of the consul and his wife were conveyed up Broadway in the presence of a multitude that thronged the sidewalks.

A notable feature of the procession was the fact that except for the police escort and the relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Cheney, it was composed exclusively of Italians.

The procession was headed by Frank De Caro as grand marshal, who was followed immediately by Count Massigli, the Italian consul-general, and the Italian consuls in New York. The bodies were placed on a train for shipment to New Haven, the home of Mr. Cheney.

EARTHQUAKE IN SPAIN

Several Towns and Villages Reported Devastated—Loss Unknown.

LONDON, January 29.—A special dispatch received here from San Sebastian, Spain, says that a terrible earthquake has devastated several towns and villages in south and southeastern Spain.

A tidal wave partially submerged the coast near Barcelona and a great landslide at Ceuta buried the village of Romara and several hundred inhabitants.

The procession was headed by Frank De Caro as grand marshal, who was followed immediately by Count Massigli, the Italian consul-general, and the Italian consuls in New York. The bodies were placed on a train for shipment to New Haven, the home of Mr. Cheney.

SAWMILL BURNS

Alabama Lumber Company Suffers Loss of \$500,000—No Insurance.

MOBILE, ALA., January 29.—The sawmill plant of the Alabama Lumber Company, three miles north of the city, was to-day destroyed by a fire, which, entailing a loss of \$750,000 on the plant and \$150,000 on the lumber, with no insurance.

Caused by a westerly gale blowing thirty-five miles an hour, there was a solid wall of fire advancing northward across the town, which was with endangering the homes of many truck gardeners.

PEACE OF EUROPE

Seriously Threatened by Attitude of Turkey Towards Bulgaria.

SOFIA, Bulgaria, January 29.—The Bulgarian ministry to-night delivered a note to the powers complaining of the irreconcilable and uncompromising attitude of Turkey and declaring that the Porte must be responsible for the consequences.

The note does not solicit the intervention of the powers, but it has attracted attention to the tension of the situation.

NO ELECTION

South Carolina Still Voting to Elect Associate Supreme Justice.

COLUMBIA, S. C., January 29.—The Legislature, which has been at a deadlock since Wednesday on the election of an associate justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, took one ballot to-day without result, and then took a recess until Tuesday night.

To-day's ballot was: Sheppard, 40; Cathran, 30; Hydeck, 37; Watts, 29; Gage, 18.

BANK IS ROBBED

Ten Thousand Dollars Seized and the Robbers Made Escape.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, January 29.—Advices received here to-day from Carleton say the Carleton State Bank was entered during last night and robbed of \$10,000. The robbers escaped.

PERKINS TELLS OF BIG STEEL MERGER

"Serious Embarrassment Was Threatened" to New York Institution.

**UPHOLDS PRESIDENT
IN HIS CONTENTION**

Situation Was Panicky Until Telephone Message Came from Washington, Telling of Feeling There. When Announcement Put a Check to Financial Depression.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29.—The merger of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company and the United States Steel Corporation was reported by the Senate Committee on Judiciary to-day, two New York bankers being examined in an executive hearing that continued through two long sessions. The witnesses were Oakleigh Thorne, president of the Trust Company of America, and George W. Perkins, of J. P. Morgan & Co., who is also a member of the finance board of the steel corporation.

The testimony of Mr. Perkins seemed to uphold President Roosevelt's contention that the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company was necessary to relieve the panicky condition of securities in November, 1907.

Mr. Thorne denied that the Trust Company of America was interested in the deal in Tennessee Coal and Iron stocks, and declared that merger was not necessary to save his institution. He gave the names of many of the persons who were interested in the syndicate which obtained control of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, and declared that the committee to subpoena Judge E. H. Gary and Henry C. Frick.

The examination of both witnesses to-day was conducted by Senator Culberson.

Mr. Perkins said:

"The question of the acquisition of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company by the Steel Corporation was never brought up or broached in any way, so far as my knowledge goes, until perhaps the first of December, 1908, when the panic developed in New York, and then it came up very suddenly, because of the panic and very serious disturbance that existed in New York as the result of the great depression in the market. The Tennessee Coal and Iron Company was then in a very serious financial straits, and it was then that the Steel Corporation was the one that might take these particular securities and relieve that part of the situation."

I remember it was discussed as to whether cash could be provided, or whether it could not and how it might be provided, and I remember a suggestion, which afterwards worked out, that the corporation might furnish about 5 per cent. second mortgage bonds in lieu of cash, and in this way put in lieu of these loans, securities that were marketable."

Mr. Perkins said there was a great deal of reluctance on the part of the steel corporation to take the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company property. He said that the price was given, and that there might be a great deal of criticism as to their right to take the property. The panicky feeling as to the depression in American securities was described by Mr. Perkins, who told also of the visit to Washington of Mr. H. Gray and Henry C. Frick for the purpose of seeing the President.

Mr. Perkins said that he was at a standstill until we got word from Washington as to what seemed to be the feeling there," continued Mr. Perkins, "and then I was telephoned to me by Judge Gary about 10 o'clock on Monday about the time the market opened, and the news that this transaction probably would be made was given out, and had an instantaneous effect for the better on the market, and I have always believed, stopped the panic. At any rate, the market was brought righted themselves, and we were met with no further serious depressions."

"Serious Embarrassment."

Calling attention to the statement in his letter to Attorney-General Bonaparte that Messrs. Frick and Gary had represented that a business firm of importance in New York, which held a majority of the securities of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, would fail unless help was given it, Senator Culberson asked Mr. Perkins whether he had had knowledge of such a condition.

Mr. Perkins replied that he could not answer whether or not the property of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company was in the hands of a business firm of importance in New York, which held a majority of the securities of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, would fail unless help was given it, Senator Culberson asked Mr. Perkins whether he had had knowledge of such a condition.

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